

Relief from Accountability

Department Memos

Fiscal Year 2014-15

Third Quarter



County of San Luis Obispo



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

3433 South Higuera Street, Post Office Box 8119
San Luis Obispo, California 93403-8119

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Leland W. Collins, Social Services Director

DATE: May 19, 2015

SUBJECT: Request for Relief from Accountability

Recommendation

It is recommended that your Board approve a Request for Relief from Accountability in the amount of \$12,359.50 for the current quarter.

Discussion

State Fiscal Manual Section 25-480 and Government Code Section 25257 require the Department of Social Services to obtain Board approval for discharge of accountability for debts owed as the result of the overpayment of public assistance benefits. Since Welfare and Institutions code 10850 requires that the names of individuals be held confidential, the Department is providing a summary by program of these debts.

Rules and regulations governing aid payments are complex, change frequently and mandate that certain overpayments cannot be billed. The State Manual of Policies and Procedures for Eligibility and Assistance Standards (MPP EAS) Regulation 44-350.161[b] and 44-352.3 state that no further collection efforts shall be made if the county determines that the cost to collect the overpayment exceeds the amount to be recovered, if the debtor dies, if the debtor is unable to locate or if the debtor undergoes Bankruptcy.

The current Relief of Accountability covers the January through March 2015 quarter case cleanup. The Department has pursued all available means of collection including (if applicable) monthly billing, repayment agreements, benefit reductions and tax intercept. After a lengthy timeframe of collection attempts, these amounts were determined as appropriate to be written off.

Other Agency Involvement

None.

Financial Considerations

This request for relief is for a combination of CALWORKS, Food Stamps and General Assistance debts. The total amount from which the Department is requesting relief is \$12,359.50 for 59 total debts.

Of these 59 debts we have identified:

CALWORKS – 17 debts totaling \$3,592.21 with a County share of cost of \$89.81.

Food Stamps – 40 debts totaling \$7,845.29. There is no County share of cost for Food Stamps.

General Assistance – 2 debts totaling \$922.00. General Assistance is 100% County funded.

Results

By relieving the Department of the requested \$12,359.50 collection staff will be released from the task of reviewing and maintaining records of debts that are no longer collectable for the aforementioned reasons.